

The main artery crossing through Travis College Hill (now known as South Eleventh) was first called *Garland Avenue*—long before the modern street by that same name existed elsewhere in town. It is believed to be the first street in town to have concrete sidewalks.

The two-block area of modern-day South Eleventh between Avenues B and D has produced three Garland mayors, five city councilmembers, a school-board president, and hosts of other civic, political, and religious leaders.

S. Eleventh Street
Cradle of Republican activity in Garland



Dixie Crossman, who lived at 400 S. Eleventh Street, organized the Republican Women’s Club in 1955. At the time she and her husband, Curtis, were said to be among

the few Republicans in previously staunchly Democrat Garland.

From the Crossman house, GOP fervor spread down Eleventh Street and ultimately to the entire city. J.D. and Mable Wheeler at 412 and Charles and Winifred Stokes at 411, along with the Crossmans, formed an intrepid early Republican trifecta on the street.

Mable Wheeler was president of the Garland Republican Women's Club, a delegate to the Republican Women's National Convention, and Republican precinct chairman in Garland. She was a "Bush Belle" during the early congressional race of President George H.W. Bush. At the Stokes home at 411 both George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush were hosted at events in the early days as candidates. Barbara Bush also was honored at the home. The Stokes home on South Eleventh Street became the Garland place to have a party or tea thrown for you if you were a GOP officeholder of any level—county, state, or national.



301 S. Eleventh Street
Built 1915, Craftsman Style



Prominent Garlandite Andrew Jackson Beaver built this home, originally painted gray, which withstood the 1927 deadly tornado. Grocer Beaver was a two-term city alderman (forerunner of city councilman) and later served as Garland school-board president.

Plans for the home were given to A.J. and his wife, Ella, by Ella’s nephew, Dr. Slater B. Wyatt. His flipped version on Plano’s 16th Street was built in 1908 and still stands.

The spacious front porch with its distinctive tapered columns was the scene of the 1919 wedding of the Beavers’ daughter, Ilma Hortense, to Samuel Robert Weir, who operated a drugstore on the square.

The house, built for \$3,500, still sits on bois d’arc tree stumps, known to resist rot and repel termites. The exterior siding, known as Boxcar siding, is made from milled pine. Most of the dimensional wood is made from old growth Douglas fir. Shiplap covers both sides of every wall. The owners have chosen to expose and paint the shiplap to highlight its beauty and craftsmanship.

Current owners Dale and Hillary Adams saw the obvious potential of the house and made an offer the same day they found it. Since taking ownership in 2006, the owners have worked their way through the house one room at a time, renewing the home’s original beauty.



Everything began with a trolley.

An electric rail-car line that was proposed to run down Avenue D (then called Mewshaw Avenue) helped kick-start the subdivision that became the Interurban Land Company’s Travis College Hill Addition in January 1913.

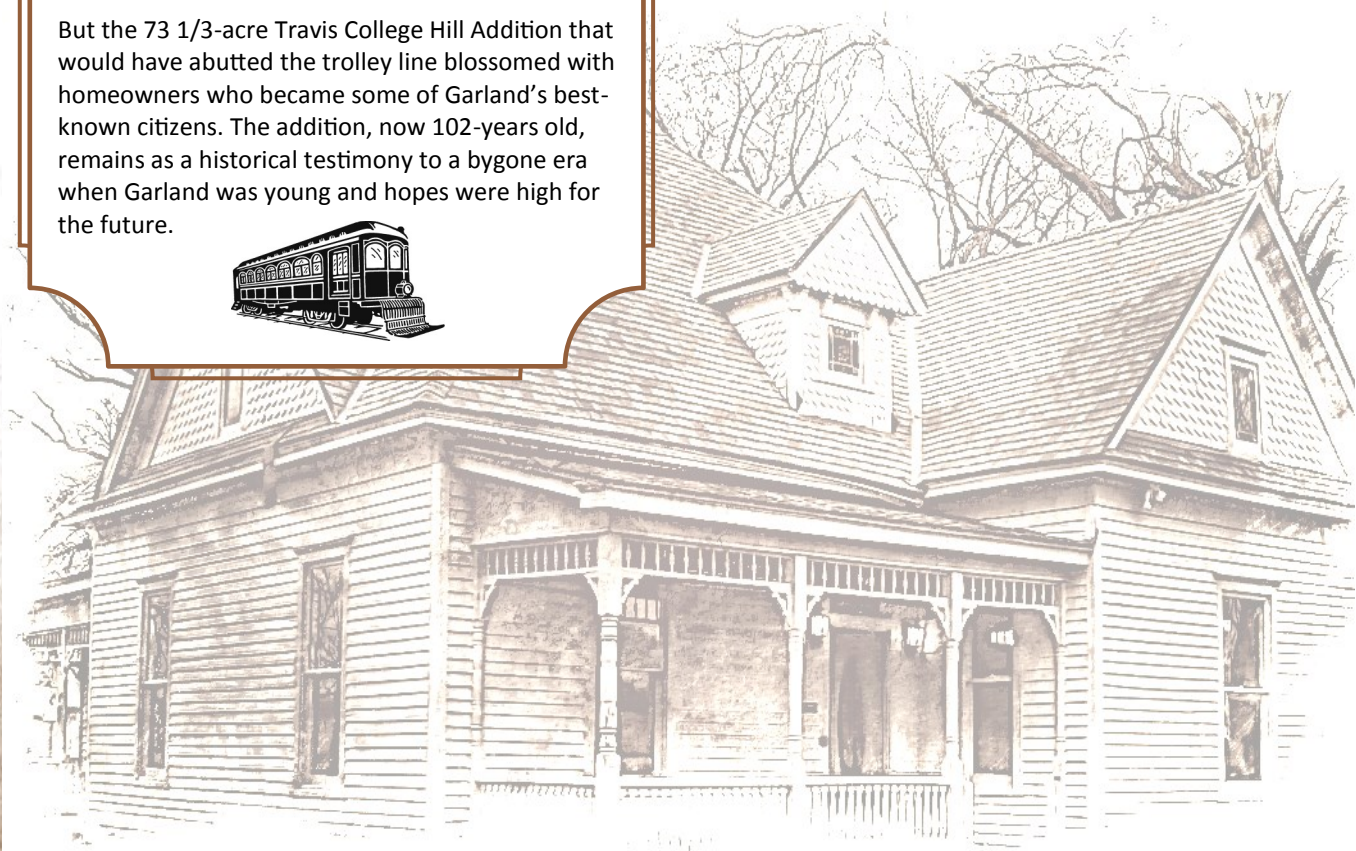
Developers appeared to have platted the addition and divided it up into residential lots so that the planned Interurban rail line would have homes nearby with residents that could boost ridership for the electric car. The rail line was envisioned to be the DART of its day and designed to link Greenville with Dallas as the rail ran through Garland.

The Interurban was never launched along the planned line. World War I’s upheaval intervened, the mass-produced automobile was introduced, and the Eastern Texas Traction Company that thought up the line slipped into bankruptcy. The need for the rail line faded as the idea of individual vehicle ownership captured people’s imaginations.

But the 73 1/3-acre Travis College Hill Addition that would have abutted the trolley line blossomed with homeowners who became some of Garland’s best-known citizens. The addition, now 102-years old, remains as a historical testimony to a bygone era when Garland was young and hopes were high for the future.



Travis College Hill
South Eleventh Street



411 S. Eleventh Street

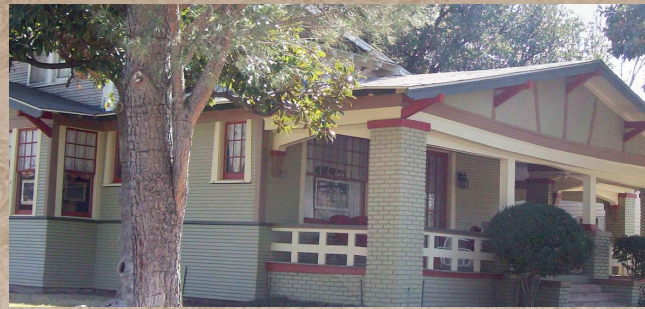
Built 1916, Craftsman Style



The house is said to be the first house in Garland to have an indoor plumbed bathroom with a sink and toilet.

Early day residents of the home were Garland Mayor G. Lester Davis and his wife, Mattie Cole Davis, the Cole & Davis Dry Goods family on the downtown square. George W. Clayton and his wife, Mary, owners of the Garland cotton gin, then purchased the home. Their daughter, Sallie Clayton Leach, and her husband Landon carved out the property in back (facing West Avenue D) and built the current stone house in 1936. In May 1946 Charles and Winifred Stokes purchased the house with the first VA loan believed ever used in the City of Garland. Mr. Stokes had just returned from serving during World War II. Charles and Winifred owned the home for 59 years.

Current owners and occupants of the house are Jim and Cindy Bird, who bought it in July 2005 and immediately began restoration efforts to return the house to its former 1916 glory. Jim Bird, a skilled carpenter, has done most of the work, with the exception of plumbing, electrical, and HVAC replacement.



400 S. Eleventh Street

Built 1917, Craftsman Style

This dwelling was the longtime residence of Curtis Crossman Sr. and his wife, Dixie Tucker Crossman. The Crossman home was the scene of more club functions and political receptions than anyone could count. Dixie was the quintessential Southern hostess; an invitation to her home was a coveted experience, to be sure.

Interestingly, Dixie had grown up down the street as one of many daughters in the home of Elihu Henderson Tucker and his wife, Aurelia, at 201 S. Eleventh. Charming stories abound of the Tucker daughters marrying in the flower-bedecked garden of the Tucker home. Curtis was the son of Garland pioneer and Mayor George W. Crossman, who was born in South America and arrived in Garland as a college-educated man who edited the Embree newspaper.



Before the Crossmans purchased the home in 1937, Mrs. Earnest D. (Dodie) Jones, a widower, lived there with her two daughters. Also a widower, George F. Mulkey, who had a Ford dealership in town, lived there with his two children. At one point during the house's history the upper story was maintained as a separate apartment, with its own exterior stairway.

Current owners are Greg and Becky Baxter, who have renovated the home as well as built a highly visible outdoor kitchen and living area with a water feature in the back yard. The Baxter's daughter, Ivy, married in a ceremony on the house's front lawn; both Ivy and the Baxter's son, Grant, had their wedding receptions held in the back yard.

313 S. Eleventh Street

Built 1916, Prairie Style



This one-story home was originally the residence of James E. and Edith McCallum Beaver. Jim Beaver was a farmer; Edith managed the Garland school cafeteria back when all grades were under one roof. The family donated farmland off Jupiter near Buckingham roads so the school district could build Edith Beaver Elementary, named for Mrs. Beaver and opened in 1960. Jim was a nephew to A.J. Beaver at 301 S. Eleventh. The H.A. Walker family members later were long-time occupants of the home. H.A. (Bud) Walker was a Garland mayor, councilmember and president of First National Bank.

Current owners and occupants of the house are Louis and Kay Wheeler Moore. Kay grew up down the street at 412 S. Eleventh and remembers bringing her homework to 313 to give to Mrs. Walker, her 2nd-grade teacher.

The house originated as a basic four-room structure, with both bathroom and kitchen facilities briefly situated in outbuildings. By the 1930's the home had a large L-shaped front porch, with its fireplace in the center of the home. In the 1950's the L-shaped porch was removed to install an extra bedroom on the southeast side and the fireplace was moved to a northern wall to expand both living and dining areas. In 2007, the fireplace was opened with the removal of walls and the addition of a music room. A large front porch was restored to the home in 2009.



317 S. Eleventh Street

Pace House, Queen Anne Style

By far the most illustrious residence in Travis College Hill is Garland's Historic Pace House, a newcomer to the street but one of the oldest homes remaining in Garland.



The frame dwelling was once the main farmhouse on acreage at N. First and State Streets. It was built on land given to John Pace and his sister, Rosa Belle Pace Roach, by their father in the 1890s. For decades John Pace and his wife Nina were cotton farmers on the property.

In 1985 the Pace House was given to the City of Garland. The building-construction trades program at five local schools helped refurbish it. For years it was used as a city events center. In October 2014 it was moved to South Eleventh Street to return to residential use.

The turn-of-the-century house is an excellent example of the vernacular Texas Victorian farmhouse. The gables and dormer window are decorated with scalloped shingles and contain stained-glass windows. The three porches have wooden turned columns with a spindle frieze decoration ("gingerbread") encircling the upper portion of the porches. The vintage light fixtures in the gallery (long hallway) are original to the home. They have survived three moves.